

THE BOMBAY COURIER.

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VOL. XLII.]

TUESDAY, 8 JULY, 1834.

[NO. 2351.]

NOTICE.—Parties requiring information on the affairs of the Bengal Provident Society, are requested to apply to

H. J. LEIGHTON,
Secretary.

Calcutta, 24th May, 1834.

TONTINE OF INDIA.

At a general meeting of Subscribers to the Tontine of India, held at the Office of the Assignee of the late Firm of CRUTTEN-DEN MACKILLOP and Co., on Saturday, the 17th instant, the following Resolution was proposed by Mr. BRUCE, seconded by Mr. ROSS, and carried unanimously:—"That in order to bring the affairs of the Institution to as speedy a close as possible, it be recommended to the Subscribers at large to authorize the sale of the claim on the late Firm of Crutten-den, Mackillop and Co."

Subscribers are accordingly recommended to authorize the Sale of the said claim, amounting to Sixty Rupees 2,84,900, either by a direct communication of their assent to the undersigned, or by the appointment of local proxies to vote in favor of the proposed measure.

H. J. LEIGHTON,

Secretary, Tontine of India.
Calcutta, 23d May, 1834.

A CARD.—In addition to the Superior display of plated Ware, intended to be sold by Messrs. FRITH, BOMANJEE AND CO. by Public Auction at their rooms, on Wednesday, the 16th instant, they are authorized to sell an extensive Invoice of fresh Oilman's Store imported per "Berwickshire," consisting of Assorted Pickles, best Durham and best Pearl Barley, White Wine Vinegar, Red HERRINGS, Assorted Sauces and Loaf Cheese, Oatmeal, Bacon, &c. &c.

whole from the respectable House of DICKESON, London.

B. They will also submit for sale a Collection of beautiful Landscapes, painted in Oil and Canvas, mounted in chaste modern Gilt Frames.

Lesbit Lane, July 8th, 1834.

LATELY published and to be had at Mr. DAVID HIZ-PATRICK'S Library, Nesbit Lane, price Rs 12, "MORTAL LIFE," the state of the Soul after Death; by a Protestant Layman.

"There is no question that can be propounded of such universal and absorbing interest as this—compared with it, all other enquiries sink into absolute insignificance." British Critic or Theological Review, No. XI.

"We have reason to believe the Protestant Layman to be none other than the son of a late distinguished professor in Marischal College, Aberdeen. In the next edition of his work let Mr. COPELAND put his name upon the title page. It is assuredly not one of which he has any cause to be ashamed. Independent of what relates to its chief subject, it contains a vast mass of various and interesting information." Edinburgh Ecclesiastical Journal, No. X.

FOR SALE.

THE INDIAN CALENDAR, for the present year, shewing the correlative dates according to the various modes of reckoning time among the HINDOOS, PARSEES, MAHOMEDANS, and MALABARIANS. Price, Rupees two.

FOR SALE at the Courier Office—A CODE OF SIGNALS, with a list of Vessels and their corresponding numbers in H. M. Service, and the Commercial Navy of Great Britain, together with those belonging to the Port of Bombay. Price, one rupee.

FOR SALE—The BOMBAY CALENDAR and ALMANAC for the present year, containing Rules, Regulations, and other matter of local interest not previously published; together with a List of the Officers of His Majesty's and the Hon'ble Company's Service now in His Highness the Nizam's Army. Price five rupees per copy.

FOR SALE at the Courier office—The Oriental Sporting Magazine from No. 7 to 20, each No. 3 0 0
Blank Powers of Attorney, 0 2 0
Do. Interest Bonds, 0 2 0
Do. Policies, 1 0 0
Do. Bills of Lading per set, 0 2 0
Do. Respondentia Bonds, 0 2 0
Do. Bills of Exchange, per set, 0 2 0
Plans of the Island, 1 0 0
Traveller's Itinerary, 5 0 0
Insolvent Debtor's Act, 3 0 0

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ADVERTISEMENT.

ANY Medical Gentleman proceeding to England, willing to take charge of the duties of a Ship to sail between 1st and 15th August for London, is requested to apply to Captain THEAKER, at the Office of Messrs. RITCHIE, STEUART AND CO.

Bombay, 8th July, 1834.

FOR SALE—No. XIV of the QUARTERLY ARMY LIST.—Price Rs. 3 per copy.

FOR FREIGHT OR PASSAGE TO LONDON,

THE fine ship EARL OF ELDON, of 600 Tons, EDWARD THEAKER, Commander. This vessel has a Poop and excellent accommodations for Passengers, and will sail between 1st and 15th August for London.

Apply to Captain THEAKER at the office of Messrs. RITCHIE, STEUART AND CO.

Bombay, 8th July, 1834.

PASSAGE TO LIVERPOOL.

THE ORIENTAL, 512 tons, G. FIDLER, Commander. Carries a Surgeon, for plans of her Cabins apply to Captain FIDLER, at the Office of DIROM, CARTER, AND CO.

FOR FREIGHT OR PASSAGE TO LONDON,

THE fine Teak ship "PALMYRA", of 600 Tons Register, Wm. LOADER, Commander. This ship is fast, has a poop and very excellent accommodations for passengers, and carries a Surgeon; she will be despatched about first the week in August. Apply to the Commander at the Office of MCGREGOR EDMOND AND CO.

Bombay, 8th July, 1834.

FOR PASSAGE TO LIVERPOOL.

To sail on or before 10th instant the fast sailing ship MARY BIBBY, THOS. NEALE, Commander, will certainly sail not later than above, and has good accommodations for Passengers. Apply at the Office of MCGREGOR EDMOND AND CO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BOMBAY COURIER.
Sir,—The following "on-lits," are in circulation—some good and some bad for the Army:—
"Decca to be given over to the Bengalees. Nagpoor to the Bombay Troops. Centre Division of the Madras Army to be done up."
"Jaulon Light Field Force to be done up. 2nd Majors to Regiments."

I am, &c.
ANTICIPATOR,

Nagpoor, June, 1834.

(Translated from the *Sunnamchar* of the 6th instant, for the Courier.)

Last night the shop of Parsees Dadabhoj and Sorabjee, Powalla, situated in Borah bazar in the Fort, was broken open after they had closed it and gone home. In the shop was a chest containing, besides a thousand Rupees, receipts and documents of considerable value. But it fortunately occurred that the robbers were, owing to some cause or other, prevented from carrying off the chest; which was discovered the next day under the following circumstances, under a large empty box lying in front of the adjoining shop belonging to Cursetjee Powalla. In the morning when the people came to the Shop, they observed the door lying open, and that the lock had been forced. They immediately gave the alarm, when the neighbours having assembled, some of them entered the shop, and then the chest was missed. From the morning until 1 o'clock in the forenoon, a diligent search was made for it, but it could not be found. At that hour, however, owing to some movement amongst three Ghattees (natives of the Deccan) who were sitting together upon the empty box before Cursetjee's shop, it was agitated, and one of them thought he heard its side strike against something underneath. He mentioned this to his companions, but they, apprehensive of suspicion attaching to them, would not look under the box; but informed the shop-keeper of what they had noticed. On turning over the empty box, he found under it the chest which had been stolen. It was unopened and uninjured.

We hear that, as it is very inconvenient for persons residing, or having business, in the Fort, to attend at the Police Office in Mazagon, our considerate Senior Magistrate Mr. Warden, has made arrangements for hearing complaints and deciding cases in the Magistrate's Office in the Fort, on three days in the week, namely Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Should this be the case, it will be a favour, and prove a great advantage, to men who have business to attend to in the Fort, and relieve them from much inconvenience which they now suffer.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

ARRIVALS.
Lieut. Col. E. M. Wood, B. E. Regt., from Poonah.
Lieut. and Qr. Mr. Hobson, do. do.
DEPARTURE.
Assistant Surgeon James W. Winchester, Medical Establishment, to Poonah.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

DEATHS.
At Sea, on board the Ship *Elora*, in November last, Mrs. Atherton, wife of Captain Atherton, H. M. 6th Regiment of Foot.

In the Fort, on the morning of the 5th instant, Matilda, the wife of Mr. H. St. Amour, of the Pilot Service, aged 19 years.
At Colabah, on the 5th instant, Frances Margaret Barker, youngest child of the Rev. Joseph Laurie, Senior Chaplain of the Scotch Church.

SHIPPING REPORT.

ARRIVALS.
None since our last.
DEPARTURES.
July 5th. Ship Hormusjee Bomanjee, James Clark, Master, to China.
— Ship William Turner, Charles Leitch, Master, to Greenock.
Passenger.—W. J. Ferrar.

— Brig Sarah, Mathew Cay, Master, to Port Louis, and the Mauritius.

Passengers.—1 European, 32 Native Convicts and 40 Free men Labourers.

— 6th. Ship Aliquis, John McFee, Master, to Liverpool.

Passengers.—Rev. W. Ramsay, 2 Children, and 1 Servant.

A LIST OF SHIPPING IN THE HARBOUR.

HON'BLE COMPANY'S STEAMER, —Hulk Lindsay.

HON'BLE COMPANY'S GUARD-SHIP, —Hastings.

Do. SLOOPS OF WAR, —Bengues.

Do. BRIG OF WAR, —Euphrates.

Do. SCHOONERS, —Shannon and Royal Tiger.

Do. FLOATING CHAPEL, —Aurora.

FREE TRADERS, —Bombay Packet, Oriental, Prince George, Berwickshire, Duke of Roxburgh, Cleveland, Carnatic, Earl of Eldon, Syden, Mary Bibby, Triumph, Palmyra, Morgiana, Kirkman, Finlay, Isabella, Calcutta, Ranger, Upton Castle, and Minerva.

COUNTRY VESSELS, —Shaw Byramore, Prime, Mackbar, Dadaloy Hannah, Cavendish Bentinck, Sulimany, Carron, Clairmont, and Sultana.

PORTUGUESE, —St. Anna, St. Francisco de Paulo, Barque Asia Felix.

ARAB, —Fazel Kurim, Puttay Nesser, and the Imam's Brig Tawze.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ARTS AND SCIENCES seems to have overlooked the probability of the advertisers to whom he refers, not being in circumstances which would admit of their paying a higher "reward" than they have offered. Unless the contrary be shown, we must decline inserting his letter.
VISMAL would appear to have just grounds for complaint, but as his statement involves a charge of neglect against a public officer, it should be vouched with the writer's name.

THE COURIER.

TUESDAY, 8 JULY, 1834.

The Sessions were opened last Saturday by the Hon'ble Sir John Audry, Knt. when the following gentlemen were sworn on the Grand Jury.

James Farish, Esq. Foreman.
Jehangeer Framjee Nana, Esq. bhoj, Esq.
Francis Martin, Esq. Rustomjee Ruttonjee Wadia, Esq.
Henry P. Hadow, Esq. Junardhjee Ballaje Sett, Esq.
Sir Roger De Faria, Esq. Cursetjee Cawasjee Banajee, Esq.
George Grieg Johnson, Esq. William Turner, Esq.
James Little, Esq. William Baxter, Esq.
Luxamon Govindjee, Esq. Alexander Stewart, Esq.
Pestonjee Framjee Cawasjee, Esq. Jose Maria Pinto, Esq.
Ardaseer Hormasjee Wadia, Esq. Alexander Parlin, Esq.
Esq. James John Falconer, Esq.
Samsodeen Pallowker, Esq. Junardhjee Ramchunderjee, Esq.
Saib.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief held a Levee yesterday forenoon, at 11 o'clock, in the Town Hall, which was numerously attended.

The merchants of Singapore lost no time, it appears, in taking advantage of the opening of the China trade, and commenced shipping Tea for Europe on the very day the new Charter came into effect. Their enterprising character, and the convenient locality of Singapore for an entrepot, seem to warrant the hopes so confidently entertained of the increasing prosperity of that settlement under the new arrangement provided its advantages are not nullified by the effects of ill-judged legislation. Nothing of this kind, it is to be hoped, will mar its prospects. The Singaporeans, it will be observed from an extract we have made from their Chronicle, evinced their feelings on the occasion of availing themselves of the provisions of the new Charter, by celebrating the first shipment of tea for England from that port, with a double Salute!

A new periodical, to be printed in the English and Hindustanee languages, and to be called the "Friend of the People," has been announced in the Calcutta papers. Should it redeem the pledge given in the Prospectus (which we subjoin), and uphold the character its title imports, the intended publication will claim the support of every honest man, and every wellwisher of this Country, in the condition of whose inhabitants it will, prove an instrument of effecting a most desirable improvement. We heartily wish the undertaking every success.

"As the Newspapers, the productions of the Calcutta Presses, are generally unavailable for information, direction, and instruction, to a large majority of our fellow subjects unacquainted with the English language, it has been considered desirable and necessary to establish a Journal, to be printed in the Hindustani and English language.

"The Editors of *The Friend of the People*, a Journal, the publication of which is intended to supply the above-mentioned deficiency, in soliciting the patronage of the *Indian Public*, take this opportunity to announce, that it is not offered for their adoption as a literary vehicle, solely conveying ephemeral news, the political gossip of the day—but is proposed as a means to rouse the attention, to bring to the knowledge of our fellow-subjects the policy and literature, the arts and sciences, which inspire and direct invention and enterprise, promote and guide industry and art, encouraging all in the development of the country's resources.

"History informs us that such (widely diffused amongst the people) are the elements of the commercial, manufacturing, and agricultural interests; the great agents in the creation of national liberty, power, glory, and wealth, and in the conversion of barbarism to civilization. The Editors pledge themselves that *The Friend of the People* shall present to its readers, early, full, and authentic notices on the administration of affairs, foreign and domestic; that on their part no expense or exertion shall be spared; that their energies and abilities will be devoted to advocate, propose, and support such measures of an enlightened Government and liberal commerce, as may be best adapted to the circumstances of the

times and country, reciprocally promote in the relations of rulers and subjects mutual interests, and most effectually conduce to the general welfare.

"Unconnected with any party, and deeply impressed with a sense of the serious responsibility and high duties of their situation, they trust that they shall ever be found to state temperately and independently, truly and impartially, their opinion of men and measures, as they may bear any influence, good or evil, however remote, on the interests of the people.

"As this will be the Journal of the people, it will of course be printed in the people's language or at least in that universal dialect of it, "the Hindustani." Strange as it may appear, no newspaper has as yet been published on the side of India in the Hindustani language. Our project has therefore some claim to public support, as being the first attempt which has yet been made to improve that language by means of public writing.

"As according to our expectations, the English language must for a series of years to come constitute the source of all improvement to the language and literature of this country, we shall add an English version of the Hindustani in parallel columns.

"The Paper will be published once a week. It is requested that all applications for it and all communications of correspondents, may be addressed to the Editors, No. 10, Park Street.

CALCUTTA.

Madras letters mention the receipt of intelligence said to be from good Home authority, that a great promotion of General Officers in the Company's Service was about to take place immediately. The number is said to be about ninety, in all for the three Presidencies, but the particulars are so vague and scanty that the military Quid-nuncs, and even the mull-men of details who carry entire army lists, and dates of back Commissions, in their head pieces, are said to be at fault. The rumoured number of ninety is certainly a puzzler; and it cannot be that all the Colonels who gained that step by the arrangement of the 5th June, 1829, are to become local Major Generals; for that class amount to more than 60 for Bengal alone we believe, and above 120 for the three Presidencies, to say nothing of His Majesty's Officers of the same date. These we presume, would be brought in, *pari passu*, as usual, unwelcome as the boon might be, to some who would lose the command of Regiments or Stations, as Brigadiers upon becoming Local General Officers. Indeed even if the promotion extend no lower than to the Colonels who held their Lt.-Colonelcies anterior to the augmentations of the Burmah war, it will sweep in Company's as well as King's officers, who would be sufferers rather than gainers by the decoration. We presume, this Madras report refers to the same promised "Boon" which has lately gone the round of the papers, on the authority of a letter from some person of influence at the India House. In respect of promotion, it will hardly deserve the name of a "boon," except to the few who reap the immediate gratification of higher title; but if it shall have been so contrived as to save the festering sore created by the supersession of the Company's Lieutenant-Colonels, it cannot fail to be most acceptable to the Army at large.—*Bengal Hurkurr*, June 3

We understand that His Excellency Lord W. Bentinck has subscribed 500 Rs. to the fund for erecting a testimonial to the Memory of Rammohun Roy, and has further expressed a wish that the talked of scheme for endowing a Professorship in commemoration of that eminent individual could be brought to bear, in which event His Lordship declared his readiness to assist with a large increase to his present subscription.—*Ibid*.

TRAVELLING PHILOSOPHERS.

[FOR THE BENGAL HERALD.]

Mankind in general are apt to deem every custom absurd, which does not square with their preconceived notions of the fitness of things; and the English are more especially given to ridicule whatever appears to them *bizarre* whether it be a mandarin cap or a French clodhopper's wooden shoe. A traveller however, who not only pretends to give descriptions of men and manners to the world, but to make comparisons of the institutions and customs of nations, and to philosophize thereon for the instruction of his fellow men, should endeavour to abstract himself from the thralldom of habit—to emancipate himself from his conventionalisms and apply to things new to his observation, the standards of reason and utility, not of mere comparison. If he can't do this, he is unfit for his vocation and had better limit himself to his descriptive, and leave the work of reflection and generalizing to others. I have been led into these reflections as your brother of the *Madras Gazette* hath it, by glancing over a few pages of Hamilton's recent work on America, a country which has supplied our book-making tourists of late, with such a fund of ridicule and sarcasm. The author of Cyril Thornton indeed, has not insulted the hospitality he experienced. Being a tory he has found as little to admire in American institutions as the Americans have discovered in the morality of his celebrated work of fiction, in which in the true aristocratic spirit, he makes his hero prefer the ruin of the object he professes to love, to a marriage with her; because she is beyond the pale of his caste! The advantage however, is on the side of Jonathan here, for while manners and customs in which the gallant author finds food for his reflections against republicanism, are purely conventional, moral principles are happily referable even according to his own code and creed, to a more fixed and unerring standard, and they justify the preference even of a marriage of a man of fortune with a game-keeper's daughter, to the seduction of her,

and as little accord with the *pseudo* sentimentality, that would weep over her subsequent alliance with an honest man who had generously forgiven her first *faux pas*, chiefly because it placed her beyond the reach of her seducer still incapable of the sacrifice of his pride on the altar of his love. Republicanism has no sympathy with this kind of "Life in London" morality; but what then? the Americans eat with their knives, which ought to be visited with the penalty of death without benefit of clergy, and they have judges who administer justice without wigs with flowing curls begrimed with powder!! It is quite amusing to read the author of Cyril Thornton's tory logic on this subject, the tone of exultation with which he puts his arguments against this violation of *decency* as he considers it. It is worth quoting as an admirable specimen of the *rationale* of Tory philosophy:—

"It is a custom in the country to ask, and generally with an air of some triumph, whether an Englishman supposes there is wisdom in a wig; and whether a few pounds of horsehair set on a judge's skull, and plastered with pomatum and powder, can be imagined to bring with it any increase of knowledge to the mind of the person whose cranium is thus disagreeably enveloped? The answer is, No; we by no means hold, either that a head *au naturel*, or that garments of fustian or corduroy, are at all unfavourable to legal discrimination; and are even ready to admit, that in certain genial regions, a judge *in curio*, and seated on a wooden stool, might be as valuable and efficient an administrator of law, as one wigged to the middle, and clad in scarlet and ermine. But whatever American is so deficient in dialectic, as to imagine that this admission involves a surrender of the question in debate, we would beg leave respectfully to remind him, that the school-master is abroad, and recommend him to improve his logic with the least possible delay. If man were a being of pure reason, forms would be unnecessary. But he who should legislate on such an assumption, would afford ample evidence of his own unfitness for the task. Man is a creature of senses and imagination, and even in religion, the whole experience of the world has borne testimony to the necessity of some external rite, or solemnity of observance, to stimulate his devotion, and enable him to concentrate his faculties, for the worship of the awful and incomprehensible Being, "whose kingdom is, where time and space are not." It is difficult to see on what principle, those who approve the stole of the priest, and cover their generals and admirals with gold lace, can condemn as irrational, all external symbols of dignity, on the part of the judge. Let the Americans at all events be consistent: While they address their judges by a title of honour let them at least be protected from rudeness, and vulgar familiarity; and they may, perhaps, be profitably reminded, that the respect exacted in a British court of justice is homage not to the individuals seated on the bench, but to the law, in the person of its minister. Law is the only bond by which society is held together; its administration, therefore, should ever be marked out to the imagination as well as to the reason of the great body of a nation, as an act of peculiar and paramount solemnity; and when an Englishman sees the decencies of life habitually violated in the very seat of justice, he naturally feels the less disposed to dispense with those venerable forms with which in his own country, it has been wisely encircled. Our answer therefore is, that it is precisely to avoid such a state of things as now exists in the American court that the solemnities which invest the discharge of the judicial office in England were originally imposed and are still maintained. We regard ceremonies of all sorts not as things important in themselves, but simply as means conducing to an end. It matters not by what particular process; by what routine of observance; by what visible attributes the dignity of justice is asserted, and its sanctity impressed on the memory and imagination. But at least let this end be some means or other, be secured; and if this be done, we imagine there is little chance of our adopting many of the forensic habits of our friends on this side of the Atlantic."

I should observe, that he professes with that pretension to extreme candour which men are apt to adopt when they feel that they are about to violate it—not to give the details of a conversation he had with an American on this subject—no; but he puts the general argument in his own way, and takes care to make the best of his answer: so that we are reminded still of the fable of the lion and the painter. We have "considerable of a notion," that Jonathan would put his case a little more forcibly, and shewn the noble captain—that these forms and ceremonies were purely conventional, and had as little to do with the real solemnity of Courts, or respect for the judges, as the figure of Minerva over the Government House here, has to do with the wisdom of the Council which assembles in the dwelling beneath it. Captain Hall, strange to say, discovered the same mare's nest, although he had been in India, where, in our Courts, the Judges never were ponderous wigs, and where no man who has ever attended them, can pretend to say that justice is not administered with decent solemnity. Here the climate would not admit of this outward sign of dignity, and the very same reason, as Captain Hamilton might have known, would prevent the adoption of it in many parts of the Union during summer, if even the Americans had ever thought of retaining this ridiculous and antiquated custom. It is not my object, however, to review the author of Cyril Thornton's work on America—and I shall merely therefore give, another illustration from it, of the absurdities into which men of genius even, are betrayed in attempting to exceed their *metier*, and in yielding to the general propensity to test the merits of the customs of foreigners, by the standard of those of their own country. The author cites as a proof of American vulgarity, the practice of putting the whole dinner on the table at once, instead of dividing it into courses! How shocking! but what would he say if he were to come to India, when he found the vulgarity common to the most refined society of this metropolis! I could find him a

few other parallel pictures here for his sketches of American vulgarisms: but I merely meant to shew how little qualified any man is to travel and to pronounce on men and manners in the countries he visits, who cannot rise superior to the weakness of measuring every thing by the standard of those conventionalisms with which habit has familiarized him. The English, above all nations, indulge this weakness to an extreme. We have hardly yet overcome our horror of frog-eating Frenchmen—and in our provincial towns especially, any foreigner whose dress and accent betray him, to be not native, and to the manner born, is sure to become an object—not of curiosity merely—but of ridicule. It is worthy of remark, that in London again, where so many foreigners assemble, where so many costumes are seen in the streets, strangers find less annoyance—because habit has familiarized the public with their appearance. So it is in general with great travellers—they become cosmopolite—they have ready in the physical sense, taken an enlarged view of human nature and seen it in a vast variety of phases—they have learned to do at Rome as Romans do—and their moral estimate of these varied customs to which they conform, becomes just and philosophical. They discover that things which appear ridiculous when considered without reference to the circumstance out of which they arise, are very much the reverse when these are taken into the account. It would be easy to fill pages with illustrations of this position: yet we constantly find men from whom we should expect more philosophical views, in their eagerness to generalize from a slender induction of facts and to establish some favorite theory, running into the most puerile absurdities on the customs of their nations, never considering how especially ridiculous some of their own must appear in the eyes of the nations they deride. Burns's aspiration for the power of self judgement, admits of very extended application—travellers should ever bear it in mind.

Oh! would some bard the gift give us
To see ourselves as others see us.

What for example would an unsophisticated American say to Indian visiting etiquette—A married man arrives at Calcutta, he wishes to get acquainted with B. another married man—A calls on B. B. returns his call—then A. with Mrs. A. calls on B. and Mrs. B.—and Mr. B. and Mrs. B. return that joint call. After these preliminaries the dinnerings which feed acquaintance till it ripens into intimacy, called *friendship* (!) may proceed. Perhaps it is of little consequence—but then how absurd it would be for a Calcutta resident to draw an inference against the manners of France and Italy because they happened to have rather less ceremony in their approaches to each other. There would be less of ridicule in these cases if people would learn to abstract their ideas in forming their judgments. Shaking hands with us is a mark of cordiality—why?—habit and association have made it so; but the touching noses of the Tartars is quite as much a proof of courtesy and mutual good will as shaking hands—why not? To an ignorant man it would appear very absurd to ask him why he was not as liable to fall up as to fall up as to fall down—he would be as much as my uncle Toby was by the learned disquisitions of Mr. Shandy—but those who have travelled but a short distance into the regions of knowledge, who happen to have heard ever of the discoveries of Newton, are aware of the important results to which the self asked question led. It is thus with your book-making tourist, whatever runs counter to his notions of refinement is barbarous or ridiculous. To the Roman every other nation was barbarian. It is much the same with your travelling tory, in whose estimation the matchless constitution and the manners of the west end of London are the models of political and social perfection.

The rage for travelling and publishing observations hastily made and inferences still more rashly drawn, is one of the characteristics of the age in which we live. A curious instance of its effects occurred when I first came to India some 19 years ago. On board the ship, we had a volume giving a sketch of a brief visit to India and China. It was illustrated with some pretty drawings, among others with that of Madras from the sea: a fine subject for a picture, with its white buildings, green trees, its grand surf, its masoolah-boats and catamarans: it was well done, and altogether the book was interesting, but there was one passage in it, which suggested some doubts to the knowing ones who were returning to India. It was an account of a native Prince dining with the Consignees of the ship in which the author had voyaged. The author had of course been invited on the occasion to meet his Highness, the Nuwab of Palaverem. The description was quite picturesque. In honour of his Highness, the approaches to the house for a considerable distance were illuminated, the Prince came in a splendid palanquin, accompanied by innumerable attendants, some clearing the way, others bearing torches, &c. &c. then followed a particular account of his person, costume, manners, &c. It turned out that the whole affair was a hoax. The Consignees a wealthy firm who lived in very great style at their garden houses discovering the author's wonder-seeking gullibility, thought it would be a good joke to mystify him a little, and so they dressed up one of themselves or a friend I forget which, in native costume, and inviting a very large party, let them all into the secret except the object of the hoax. The garden and the approaches were all lighted up and no expense was spared to make the scene impressive and oriental. The viands and wines were of a very costly description, and of course of the best quality, and the delighted guest went away exulting in the idea, of not only having engaged a glorious dinner, in the company of a real *gentleman* *Nabob*, but in having provided interesting material for his intended book. Some 18 months afterwards, Messrs. ——— and Co. found their name and fame immortalized, as the princely entertainers of the Nuwab of Palaverem, and all Madras enjoyed the joke.

Such hoaxes may be of rare occurrence, but the

self imposed delusions of too many tourists are not less absurd and are far less innocent when they lead to false conclusions on national character and national institutions.—*Bengal Herald*, June, 15.

CAWNPORE.

CHARACTER AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SHAH SHOOJAH.

The fact of Shah Shoojah having composed an Autobiographical Sketch or history of his eventful life is a proof that he was employed during his Exile in more rational and intellectual pursuits than "reinforcing his harem." The testimony of Elphinstone who saw the Shah in the plenitude of his power—the powerful Sovereign of a powerful kingdom—and afterwards at the lowest ebb of fortune—a poor and unhappy fugitive from his Country—must be conclusive as to the superiority of character possessed by the Durani Chieftain. It ought also to be remembered to the honor of the Shah that when he defeated, and expelled his brother Mahmud from the throne which he had usurped from Zeman Shah, his proceedings were not attended by any of those acts of atrocity which disgraced the conduct of his brothers.

The autobiography alluded to above was written by Shah Shoojah at the suggestion and request of Captain Wade, the Political Agent at Lodianah, partly for the purpose of diverting the Ex-King's mind from brooding over his misfortunes, and partly because it was considered such a work would form an interesting sequel to Mr. Elphinstone's History of Kabul. The Shah, prior to his leaving Lodianah we believe, transmitted a copy of his "Life" to the distinguished person mentioned above, whom he always considered a warm and disinterested friend.

The late Lieutenant Bennet of the Artillery obtained his copy from Captain Wade, and if the translation is now in Captain Doveton's possession we think that Officer ought to give it to the world. *Cawnpore Examiner*, June 14.

COLONEL PASMORE AND PARTY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CAWNPORE EXAMINER.

Sir.—Having seen in the *Bengal Hurkaru* of Saturday last a paragraph, copied from the *Englishman*, in which it is stated that "strange and painful rumors have for some days been in circulation regarding the fate of Major Pasmore and his Party" I applied without delay to a friend of mine at this place, who is in regular correspondence with one of the persons attached to the Mission, for information on the subject, and have obtained from him the following particulars, which, with a view to quiet all alarm, I send for insertion in your useful paper.—The party up to the 20th of March, the date of the last accounts from them, were in perfect safety, and so far recovered as to be able to proceed on their journey.—Their personal security, however, never was in jeopardy; and the, soon after their entrance into the Persian Territory, the suspension of their progress for a few days had become inevitable, this was owing to a circumstance, very different from fear of the Prince of Shiraz, or of the Marauders between Bushire and Tehran.—The fact is, intimation had early been sent, by order of the Shah to Major Pasmore, that unless he and his party complied with Mahomedan prejudices in a more essential particular than a conformity to the Persian Costume, the sooner they returned to those who sent them the better.—Reflecting on the great interests at stake, and esteeming personal inconvenience of any sort but of little moment when contrasted with these, the Major not only resolved himself to comply with, but also prevailed on all with him to submit to, the will of the Barbarian and the annoyance they suffered in consequence prevented their travelling for something more than a week.—As I have said before, however, they had quite recovered, and were proceeding as merrily as ever, at the date of the last accounts from the party; and I am sure, much as all may have wished for their success before, it must be doubly desired now, after an instance of devotion to the cause in which they have embarked, never before equalled.

3d June, 1834.

I am Sir, yours obediently.

PHILANTHROPIST.

We are sorry that our obliging correspondent did not authenticate this letter by communicating his name which would have given more weight to his Statements.—Ed.—*Ibid*.

DELHI.

We continue to watch the progress of Shah Shuja beyond the Indus with increasing anxiety. Information recently received from Cabul, proves that the late report of Dost Mahomed Khan's death was a *hoax*, invented, it is said, by the Sikhs to induce the Peshawur rulers to betake themselves to Cabul, and scramble for the spoils of that city, instead of opposing a hostile front to them in the vicinity of Peshawur. The Candahar rulers were closely besieged by Shah Shuja, who had taken possession of the city, but not of the citadel. Dost Mahomed on hearing of the capture of Peshawur by the Sikhs, suspended his march to Candahar to succor his brothers, and returned precipitately to Cabul: the Persians are again expected to wreak their vengeance on that devoted object of their ambition, Herat.

Since writing the foregoing a letter, of which the following is an extract, has just been received from Shahamet Ali confirming our intelligence and adding some particulars.

"The Barukzies of Peshawur have retired now to the Hills of Khyber. It is said, that the Sikh troops are terribly harassed by them every day, and it will be a long time before the Lahore ruler will be able to establish his peaceful authority in that quarter."—*Delhi Gazette*, June 18.

Munnee Ram has been at last restored to liberty for a ransom of 50 lacks of Rupees, the payment of which has, we understand, been humanely guaranteed by Mr. Cavendish to save the Sikh from further torture; so that after all that officer's non-interference does not partake of the hard-

heartedness of which he has been accused, and although his good nature occasionally leads people into trouble, it is not always that he abandons them in their extremity. The only thing to be regretted is that the spoliation of the Sikh being resolved on by Mr. Cavendish did not put the unlucky wretch out of pain at once, instead of subjecting him to such a gratuitous ordeal as he has undergone for the few last months.—*Ibid*.

We learn that matters are not prospering at Holkar's Durbar, Hurree having already taken to habits of intoxication, in which he is encouraged by the low vagabonds around him, who profit by his being kept in a state of incapacity to transact business. One set of men are in favour one day and are, by intrigue, ousted the next, and there is no hope that the country will benefit by the change that has taken place, or that it is at all likely to enjoy under the new system, a wise, just, and good Government.—*Ibid*.

Strange misconceptions seem to prevail in this country about what is called the Law of Nations. *Interferers* deprecate the application of it to British relations with the Native Chiefs, and *non-interferers* invoke it when they would have our Allies left to their own misrule. Both parties appear to err, by confounding the principle with the practice that obtains in Europe: though, for obvious reasons, the line of conduct which a Government ought of right to follow, is often rendered impracticable by circumstances. The subject is divested of much of its mystery by Montesquieu, when he says that Nation ought to behave to Nation, as man should to man. It is based, in fact, like all important things in morals, on universal equity, or to speak plainly, on common sense. For instance, an Englishman's house, as we all know, is his Castle, within which no person can set foot or in dle with the domestic concerns of the owner. The limits of this valued freedom from intrusion, if not exactly defined, are sufficiently understood. The master of every family has ample power to keep it in order, but this power is no sooner abused than forfeited. The husband and father may chastise naughty children, and correct an undisciplined mate with a rod the thickness of his little finger; he may proceed to acts of wanton cruelty, he may let wife, child, or servant, cry "murder!" name "murder!" bars and bolts must be admitted all police men within earshot, to the cesses of John Bull's privacy. Few would hardihood to maintain that the internal affairs of a Nation ought to be more sacred from interference of Nations, than the bed-chamber of a Freeman from that of his fellow subjects. The rule has always been held valid in either case.

Every independent people, like the English, have their castle, of which the will of the Supreme Governor, and may decide, without reference to the wishes of others, whether a Republic or Aristocracy, a limited Monarchy, or a Despotism suits them best; and foreign support to any individual or faction who may oppose the greater number, is iniquitous. No state in Europe ever thought of marching an armed force in aid of the opposition in the British Parliament, to turn out an obnoxious Ministry. But the Prince of Orange, complying with the wishes of a majority in the nation, invaded England with a Dutch fleet and army which drove James the Second from the throne of his ancestors on account of his tyrannies.

Putting aside the real motives and hypocritical pretences of France and Spain during the American war, no Statist of that day denied their right or duty to compel the mother country to do justice to oppressed colonies. The fact of oppression was the only thing disputed. Turgot, the most enlightened minister of his age, fully allowing the claim of the insurgent to assistance, objected to the declaration of hostilities by his Sovereign, merely because he feared lest it should induce Great Britain to make acceptable concessions and prevent the dismemberment of the Empire, before the Americans had, as he desired, won their independence.

Mr. Pitt would have been justified in joining the league against France in 1792, had the Republic, as he affirmed, instigated and offered to help the disaffected (which if not a misnomer is a minority) of every Monarchy to subvert established order. The explanation, however, then given by the French ambassador, Clouvelin, shews that the intention of his Government had been misrepresented: and a communication from the Executive Council of the Republic afterwards expounded the principles of national law, on which independent States have a right to act towards one another.

We quote from manuscript notes which are perhaps badly transcribed; but the following is the undoubted import of the document. "The idea of instigating to sedition was never contemplated by the authors of that decree, of the Convention which promised assistance in the cause of liberty. Sedition is the rising of a small number against the majority of a nation in which the Sovereignty resides. Henry IV. of France, and the English Queen Elizabeth were not considered promoters of sedition, when they assisted the provinces of the Low Countries to throw off the yoke of the tyrant Philip II. No: it becomes the duty of every free state to afford aid, when the greater part of a community wishes to alter or reform its government."

We need scarcely advert to the absurdity of condemning foreign interference or the entrance of a private dwelling, because they are liable to gross abuse; usurpation being sometimes the consequence of the one and robbery of the other. All laws written or unwritten, being intended for the welfare of those who submit to them, can never sanction wrong, and the Government or individual that perverts them is knowingly guilty of a great crime.

We shall hereafter consider what modification the law of European states should undergo in India.—*Ibid*.

Recent accounts from England tell us that some misunderstanding had occurred between the Board of Control and the Horse Guards, regarding the supercession of the Officers of the Indian Army by His Majesty's Lieutenant Colonels.—Nothing definitive had been settled but it was understood that Lord William Bentinck would be vested with au-

thority to apply a remedy, such as he might deem fit. Probably the best remedy would be to give the Lieutenant Colonels of the Indian Army the Army Rank of Colonels, but we invite the opinions of our Military friends upon this point.—*Ibid.*

TRADE OF THE PUNJAB.

WOOLENS.

Broad cloth is exported to the Punjab in considerable quantities. The prevailing colour is red for the uniform of Runjeet Singh's Regular troops, and the natives are in the habit of wearing long pieces of red cloth in the cold weather thrown over their shoulders. Next to red the colour in greatest demand is green, and there is one way in which green broad cloth is consumed which is well deserving of notice. Some years ago the manufacturers in Cashmere found out that green shawls were in demand with the Europeans, and having no other mode of procuring the dye, they were obliged to extract it from green broad cloth, and they have continued the practice ever since. Two yards of broad cloth, to the value of about ten rupees, are spoilt in the process of extracting colouring-matter sufficient for a single shawl, and it would of course be a profitable speculation to import a small quantity of the dye itself, furnishing at the same time directions for its proper application. The remainder of the export is made up of every colour.

Our broad cloth has held in esteem by the Afghans for making up their winter dress, and after the opening of the trade, it is likely to be extensively consumed by them and their neighbours, the Uzbeks and Turkomans. The excellence of our broad cloth is fully appreciated by the Afghans in common with the rest of the Asiatics, and it is their dearness alone which prevents their having a more extended consumption. A low standard of price therefore ought always to be kept in view, and this should be combined as far as possible with a specious glossy appearance. The lighter kinds, as ladies cloths, Cassemere, and Camlets, will be required only in small quantities. Our flannels and blankets were never in much demand in the East, but they will probably be required more to the West of the Indus on account of the coldness of the climate.

The North Western trade is opened the way for woollens will be entirely our own. The East never had any, except Cassemere, and a coarse stuff called purpet or puttoo, after the opening of the Indus, the Russians will be as inferior to us in the means of transport as they are at present in the manufactures.

SILKS.

Most of the natural colour or light yellow is very worn by the Sikhs, this being their sacred colour. It is all Moorsheadabad silk exported by the Mirwarries who buy it at Mirzapoor. The countries beyond the Indus are mostly supplied over-land from Persia and China, but, when the trade is thrown open, they will mainly depend upon us for their supply. When there is no great difference of price, nations always lay in their supplies of foreign goods at the places where they are able to dispose of their own produce.

We have not yet acquired so decided a superiority over the Indians in our silk manufactures, as we have in our woollen and cotton, and the French are also able successfully to compete with us. The market of the Indus therefore will be supplied at first from all quarters. After a time it will be seen what kinds of silk are most in demand, and our merchants will then make it their study to get up their investments accordingly. Keemkhab and other Indian silk stuffs, velvet, satin, crape, brocades and embroidered goods will sell to a certain extent for the consumption of the rich. Although these articles can be consumed only by a few in each community, yet being light and valuable, they are capable of the longest land carriage, and when an ingress has been given, they will find their way into the heart of central Asia.

Imitation shawls will hereafter become an important article of export, but they must be made on purpose for the market. The people to the West of the Indus use shawls or sashes to tie round the waist, or as turbans to wrap round the head, and they seldom wear them thrown over the shoulders like the people of India. For this market therefore shawls require to be made very long and narrow. It is difficult to speak with certainty regarding the pattern, and the best plan will be to send to England a few specimens of the genuine Cashmere shawl, of the kinds which are most in use. *Ibid.*

SINGAPORE.

EXTINCTION OF THE TEA MONOPOLY.—We noticed amongst our commercial remarks last week, that several purchases of tea, brought by the Chinese junks, had been made, for the purpose of sending to England, on speculation. The old charter of the Company having expired on the 22d instant, and with it the tea monopoly, permits to ship teas for England, were granted at the Import and Export office on the 23d. To commemorate such an important occasion, and in order that the first shipment from this port should have the honor, justly due, paid to it, it was determined that the first chest should be conveyed by itself on board the free trader destined to receive it. This vessel was the barque *Troughton*, Capt. Thompson. The chest on coming alongside, was hoisted up the mainyard arm, and a salute of seven guns fired. This was answered by the *Platina*, Captain Wilson, with thirteen guns, and this salute again acknowledged from the *Troughton* by another of three guns!

It may appear unbecoming in us, but we think the occasion warrants our following up these expressions of joy, by giving (in which we trust many of our readers will unite) three hearty cheers for free trade! Huzza! huzza! huzza!

Having seen the ancient and oppressive tea monopoly thus fairly blown out of the world, it is fit that we should make a few observations on the extent to which this settlement is likely to enjoy a participation in the open tea trade. The Chi-

nese junks are reported to have brought this season from 6 to 7,000 chests of tea; the greater part of which we believe came from ports in the Canton province; some from Amoy, the principal emporium in Fokien province. There is little doubt that with the present encouragement already so practically given to the Chinese merchants by some of our European houses, the quantity brought here next season will be much more extensive. We have learned from the Chinese themselves that the quantity may be increased to any extent. Much of the future dealings in this article must depend however on the qualities of teas imported; and caution will be indispensably necessary, in order that our market may not obtain an unenviable name for the supply of indifferent teas. Some of the Chinese junks which resort to this settlement periodically, come from ports near which good teas are grown, and wariness against the tricks of the dealers seems alone requisite to ensure a steady and increasing demand for teas, intended for the home as well as other markets.—*Chronicle, April 24.*

EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

PUBLIC DEBT.

A pamphlet has been put into our hands entitled *Influence of the Public Debt on the Prosperity of the Country*, which, as it expressed the opinions, if not the arguments, of a considerable class of reasoners on this important subject, deserves to be noticed. From several foreign idioms (such as the use of the word *consequence* for competition), we are led to suspect it to be written by a foreigner; and if so, the knowledge which it displays of the economical labours of our political writers—and of the history of our finances—and of the financial opinions of our statesmen, is extremely creditable to the author. But we must not allow our satisfaction at the manner in which the work is executed to blind us to the great political heresy which it adopts and defends.

That heresy consists in the doctrine that a national debt is *per se*, and without any reference to the necessity of its contraction, a national blessing; that its influence is beneficial on the national prosperity; that it has a power "creative" of national wealth; that public debt differs entirely in its nature and effects from private debt—the former being, in the words of our author, "a debt of the right hand to the left of the same," incorporated individual, the nation, which pays "only what it receives, and has, therefore, neither *minus* nor *plus*, while the latter is a transfer of property into the hands of another, leaving the payer with a decided *minus* of means;" and that consequently all former writers on finance, with the exception of Mr. Alexander Hamilton, of America, M. Laffitte, the Paris banker, and M. Ouvrard, the speculator, are wrong in their views of a national debt being a real burden on a country, unless when the interest of it is paid to foreigners. The author of the pamphlet puts this doctrine into a great variety of shapes, and supports it by numerous illustrations, all involving the same fundamental error. Thus he tells us that "the public funds, if managed with sense and prudence, yield not only the greatest security for capital, but open the greatest field for gain or loss to those who choose to risk the chances." Security for capital, and facilities for gambling, seem to be rather incongruous advantages of the same applauded institution. Again, he says, that a public debt, "though it bears the name, deserves less the appellation of a debt than the circulating notes of the Bank of England, for nobody can call upon the State for the payment of any stock, while the holders of the notes can at any time demand their payment." Who ever denied that the notes of the Bank of England are a real debt? On their very face they bear the announcement of "promises to pay;" and how a national debt can cease to be debt because it is not more a debt than notes which avowedly are so, it would be puzzling to explain. As another illustration equally irrelevant or unintelligible, of the same tenet that the national debt is not a debt, we are told "that the funding of debt is a kind of banking institution, the latter's securities consisting of the savings of past times, the former's of the means of futurity." In this sentence the creditor and the debtor are actually confounded, and the expenditure by the nation of the large sums which it has borrowed is considered as the savings of past times. That we may be left in no doubt of the opinion of our author that the immense sums which we have expended in more than a century of wars, and of which the nation is now paying the interest, are considered by him in the light of so much capital accumulated, he tells us, "that the system of funding presents great advantage to the generation contracting the debt, and that through its increased wealth leaving inheritance to the succeeding generations it benefits them also. Thus the contraction of debt is declared beneficial both to the present generation and to posterity. But the most startling mode of expressing the same doctrine is found in the following passage:—"The immense expense entailed on the country by the war is returned in the shape of interest on the debt, and the country instead of finding itself exhausted by so expensive a war, had its wealth increased by an addition of 400,000,000*l.* to its circulating capital. England was thus more powerful, or richer, at the end of the war than at the beginning." Thus, all the extraordinary expenditure of the war is converted into a mere speculation of economy;—thus the operations of all our Chancellors of the Exchequer for the last century in contracting our calamitated loans, have been the surest means of increasing the national wealth;—thus the treasure, which we ignorantly imagined wasted in subduing our allies in the last contest, in clothing foreign armies and in precipitating the military force of Europe upon Napoleon, was a positive accumulation of capital to enrich England;—thus the 20,000,000*l.* or 30,000,000*l.* annually be-

yond our revenue, which we expended in clothing, victualling, and arming 300,000 or 400,000 men in our own naval and military service,—in building ships,—in fitting out expeditions, and in purchasing munitions of war, cavalry-horses, or parks of artillery, were the funds of a great "banking institution," superintended by the Lords of the Treasury, and destined to enrich the present age and posterity!!

All this is of course said without any reference to the manner in which the loans were expended, or the objects for which the debt was contracted. Had our author chosen only to contend that the contraction of a national debt may at times be necessary for the defence of national independence, the promotion of national interests, or the attainments of national security,—that the funding system is useful in enabling us to draw upon posterity for a part of the purchase-money of those national advantages and that national glory which we bequeath to our children,—that if we have given a mortgage on their future inheritance, we have at least improved the family estate, and left them the means of paying off the encumbrance at their leisure,—that former writers have been too much alarmed at the magnitude of our obligations, and that the nation, by advancing in population and wealth, is fast outgrowing its burdens, and may feel less the pressure of a debt of 800,000,000*l.* in 1834, than it did of 40,000,000*l.* in 1734;—had all or any of these positions only been maintained, we might have agreed with the warmest defenders of a national debt; but we must contend that the principle is not less untrue in theory, than it would be pernicious in practice, that a national debt is a public blessing, or, as our author says, "that it increases the national wealth by its own amount." If such were the case, the more we should have of it, the better; and the more taxes which we raised to pay its dividends, the richer should we become. Why, then, abstain from any apprehension of a greater expenditure, or why did we lately make any difficulty about the amount of compensation to the West Indians? Whether it was 15,000,000*l.* or 20,000,000*l.*, or, as the planters once proposed, 50,000,000*l.*, would have been a matter of moonshine, or rather the adoption of the larger compensation would have conferred the greater benefit!

As the confusion of ideas which leads to the adoption of an error so fruitful in dangerous consequences is not peculiar to this ingenious (foreign) writer, we shall make no apology for a few further remarks upon its origin or tendency.

There can be no doubt that the money which Government has borrowed in the various loans, which are now funded as our public debt, were the savings of the people, or a part of the accumulated capital of the nation. As regards the fundholder, then, the debt is a capital on which he receives interest. In this way "the capital" of the Bank of England is said to be lent to Government. But on the other hand there can be as little doubt, that all the money which Government borrowed to constitute existing debts has really been so much capital, unproductively (however necessarily) consumed, excepting the very small portion expended in public improvements; and that the 28,000,000*l.* or 30,000,000*l.* paid annually in dividends to the national creditor, however just and equitable, constitute an expenditure of the remaining revenue of the nation, for which there is now no more return than for the part of the national revenue that supports our military and naval establishments—in short, for the money expended in the pay and clothing and accoutrements of our soldiers and sailors.

Indeed, so far as the pressure on the national resources is concerned, it would not matter in the smallest degree whether we paid the 50,000,000*l.* a year at present raised in taxes for the support of an additional half-million of idle soldiers. The fundholders may be said to be the executors or representatives of the contractors for the extraordinary armies or navies who wasted our money for the last century, and the dividends which we now pay them may be said to be the interest on the excess of that waste which we could not annually repair without immediate ruin. The fundholder must be paid so long as national faith remains, but we must not reckon our past expenditure in itself the source of present blessings.

Away, then, with the idea of this ingenious foreigner—an idea which was stated from the Bench some years ago by a most respectable judge (Mr. Justice Bayley), whose profound knowledge of law formed a strange contrast with his knowledge of national economy,—that the national debt is no burden,—that taxation is no evil,—that the nation, in paying the public creditor or public servant makes no transfer of property that can affect its interests,—and that the money levied on the people in taxes falls down upon them again in "refreshing dews."

True, indeed, the taxes raised from the resources of the people are condensed by the cold of the higher regions of the Treasury, and again descend in abundant showers; but they do not descend on the same field or grounds whence they were elevated. They are evaporated from the sweat of the labourer's brow, and they fall in "refreshing dews" on the head of the pensioner or sinecurist. They are extracted from the scanty springs of humble comfort or competence to water the heights of Government service or official dignity. They are a transference of nutritive moisture from the useful plants in the field of industrious labour to promote the rank vegetation or ornamental luxuriance of indolence and patronage. They are raised in the shape of contributions on the consumption of the middle classes, and they fall in the form of pensions or salaries on the rich and powerful. They constitute, in the language of Scripture, "a cloud that drops down fatness," but that "cloud" was formed by the fierce heat of excise exaction or fiscal severity. Let us, therefore, hear as little as possible of this process of financial evaporation; and, instead of the condensed showers of our author and of the learned Judge falling on the community from the upper atmosphere of the public Treasury, let the natural streams of the people's wealth circulate through their own fields,—fertilize their own hum-

ble gardens,—and gladden their dwellings.

Less of the resources of the working classes, in proportion as the national fund is conferred on the idle. The army, the navy, and the civil Government may be all necessary to the independence, and the order of the payment of the national creditor is demanded by every principle of national faith and honor. It is quite evident that every man who is not from productive labour to fulfill public duties, who, having lent his money to the nation, derives from the national revenue his just means of subsistence, imposes the task of maintaining him upon the remaining body of the industrious. This would be perfectly evident to less acute persons than our author and the learned Judge alluded to, if it were not for our artificial state of society and the intervention of money, which complicates the operation of taxes and the mode of maintaining the unproductive members of the community.—*Times, Feb. 26.*

BLESSINGS OF IGNORANCE.

"If ignorance be bliss, 'tis folly to be wise."

There are many things which have passed for ages as unquestioned truths, which, when examined with attention, and without prejudice, fade away "like the baseless fabric of a vision." Such are the unmerited encomiums which have hitherto been lavished on knowledge and learning, and the equally undeserved reproaches that have been liberally bestowed on ignorance. It is my object at present to restore things to their proper places, and attach praise and blame where they are actually due. I shall therefore come immediately to the point, and endeavour, in relation to my motto, to prove that ignorance is really bliss, and that wisdom is consequently only folly.

I ask, in the first instance, whether to be kept in ignorance of bad and unpleasant tidings would not always be desirable? for what is not known to a person, is pretty nearly the same as if it did not exist, with regard to him. If men were ignorant of the art of war, how many millions of throats would have been left whole, that have been cut since its discovery? If navigation had remained to this day unknown, old Ocean would have been spared much virulent abuse, and many outrageous epithets, bestowed on it by the poets, and an infinite number of our fellow creature would have been reserved for drier deaths on shore; of which opinion was certainly the ingenious author of that strikingly trite observation, that "a man who is born to be hanged, will never be drowned."

Brutus, Cato, Cassius, and other similar worthies, would never have fallen on their swords, if they had had none to fall on, as was pertinently remarked to me the other day, by my friend Captain O'Dogherty, as I conversed with him on this subject. According to the popular apothegm—"A little learning is a dangerous thing."

Now, if a little learning, like avarice, be dangerous, how much more so must it be in a large quantity? And here let me observe, by the way, that my arguments are not directed against that species of natural knowledge which comes, as it were, by instinct, such as the noble exercises of eating, drinking, walking, talking, and others, which it would be tedious to enumerate, but merely against the artificial discoveries which have been since introduced into the world, to the prejudice of its denizens, by that *ignis fatuus* called human wisdom. What, in fact have been the effects of the boasted inventions of modern times? The compass, one of the most important, has done little else than allure more persons to sea, and consequently to perish, than formerly. Gunpowder has only succeeded in enabling us to destroy our fellows with greater facility, greater noise, and at a greater distance. The telescope wears out our eyes by inducing us to pore continually into her heavens.

Printing is still worse; it is a vehicle for false doctrines, dangerous opinions, and impudent slanders: it has caused thousands to prove themselves imbeciles before the public, who were before only known as such in their own families; it spoils much good paper, which had far better have remained in its original state of rags, and have been bestowed to cover the nakedness of the poor.

Gas, which, thank Heaven, is as yet confined to the large towns, is an invention of the evil one, for lighting thieves to their prey in the night, and corrupting the sober citizen on his way home, by exposing to his view many scandalous scenes, which were formerly hidden under the convenient evil of darkness, or at worst but indistinctly seen by the faint glimmering of a whale oil lamp; now there is not a frail fair one to be met with from Hyde Park Corner to Shoreditch, whose charms may not be seen to more advantage at midnight than midday. *O tempora, O mores!*

As for steam, it has its peculiar disadvantages, and my particular dislike; it blows up ships and blows down houses; it keeps all who have to do with it in perpetual hot water, wastes much fuel which might more rationally be employed in cookery, and will, I trust, soon end where it began—in smoke.

I could support my position by innumerable examples from history, but, being pressed for time, shall content myself with the few that follow, which will serve as well as a thousand. As long as the eldest Brutus passed for a fool, he lived in perfect peace and security in the court of king Tarquin the Second, but he no sooner discovered himself to be as wise as his neighbours, and procured the banishment of the aforesaid sovereign, than he was knocked on the head for his pains. It had been happier for Demosthenes and Cicero, as Juvenal very justly observes, had they been ignorant of the oratorical art which brought them both to untimely ends. The famous Theodorico the Goth, conqueror and king of Italy, was unable to write his name, and he accordingly, with great prudence, used a stamp for that purpose. Recent discoveries have shown that all the vaunted philosophers of antiquity, Anaxagoras, Empedocles, Aristotle, and others, entertained false notions, and were of course mere ignora-

increased my respect for the firm hope and belief, which I have proved as much for many of the present day. To times, the famous Duke of Devonshire, who was extremely badly, but he held his own, and then, the grand old man, Lord XIV. on his throne. If F—the high and mighty—would not have been hanged at the Old Bailey for a crime of like manner, Dr. O—would not have visited our flourishing colonies in New South Wales for a similar reason.

So much for the inconveniences of knowledge, which are soon enumerated; but it would require a hundred tongues to proclaim all the blessings of ignorance. Nor need I have recourse to far-fetched reasons for the support of my theory; the most dogmatic philosopher, will readily allow the unspeakable advantage of being ignorant of vice; and as, unhappily, the vicious are far more numerous than the virtuous, it follows that ignorance, in this one respect only would instantly correct most of the errors and imperfections incident to our species. In many other instances the value of ignorance is highly conspicuous; if a culprit, on being brought to trial, be ill-advised enough to confess any knowledge of the fact charged against him, it is a hundred to one but it will go hard with him; but mark the reverse; he has only in the first instance to plead ignorance, and afterwards to prove it, to obtain an honourable acquittal. In no country is greater reverence paid to ignorance than in England: the verdict of our grand juries sets its importance in a clear light; if it be the intention to absolve the prisoner, it is effected by the mere use of the word *ignoramus* which some profound law-Latin scholars have taken to signify, that the jury discharged the accused because he appeared to them to be an *ignoramus*, being some thing equivalent to benefit of clergy. For my part I rather incline to the opinion that the expression alludes to the ignorance of the jury as to the crime charged; be that as it may the reader may understand it in which sense he pleases, the beneficial effects of ignorance to the prisoner are equally clear in both. Nothing, to give another instance, can be more unpleasant than to be reduced to the uncomfortable dilemma of being obliged, by an able antagonist, to acknowledge an unpleasant truth, which I fancy we have most of us at times experienced; now, ignorance is an impenetrable armour against this inconvenience: the heaviest artillery of argument, the sharpest shafts of wit, are repelled or blunted against its impassable mail. Ignorance stands like a vast rock in the midst of the ocean, which beats back the unruly waves which dash themselves to foam against its rugged sides. No logic can entangle, no argument stagger, no proof persuade the ignorant; the thunders of eloquence, the lightnings of ridicule, are alike unavailing.

"Thrice is he armed who hath his brain-pan thick." Ignorance is moreover dignified, for it cannot be perturbed; it is resolute, for it never retracts an opinion; it is courageous, for it does not know when it is in danger; it is happy, for it is contented with itself; and, superior to others, or, what comes to the same, thinks itself so, for it despises them: lastly, a striking proof of the superiority of ignorance, is the number of its followers; the learned are few, the ignorant, many; and if there be any truth in the old adage, "*similis similibus gaudet*," to enjoy to perfection the society of our fellows, we should endeavour to resemble them; and, with this view, I recommend my readers to forget as speedily as possible all they remember, and to unlearn all they have been taught, until in process of time they may have the happiness and satisfaction of becoming as ignorant as their humble servant.

Metropolitan Mag. for Feb.

PARADOX.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

China, an Outline of the Government, Laws, and Policy, and of the British and Foreign Embassies, and Intercourse with that Empire. By PETER AUBER, Secretary to the Directors of the East India Company. Parbury, Allen and Co., Leadenhall Street.

This is a work that may be emphatically called, practical. All that the Chinese will permit us to know of themselves is here lucidly set forth; and those who may be compelled, or who are desirous, to have dealings with them, may learn what they have to expect. That they are a set of over-reaching rogues, and very cowardly and silly without, is quite apparent; and though Mr. Auber has stood forward the advocate and the panegyrist of the East India Company, even from his own showing, we think that company has behaved almost as silly, and in a manner quite as cowardly, as those with whom they have had to contend. Whenever their servants residing at Canton, acted with any thing like common spirit, it was sure to draw down reproach from their masters. "Our trade, our trade—preserve our darling trade," was the continual cry, the reiterated command. Acting upon this principle, the Chinese invariably got the better. The insults, the degradations that our countrymen have received at their hands, cannot be fully comprehended, and even scarcely believed, until this volume has been perused. That firmness, nay, even violence, is the only method of proving to them that other beings are men besides those who were born in the celestial empire, was fully exemplified by the only instance we have of spirit, in that of Mr. Innes, a gentleman not belonging to the Company. He, having occasion to visit a mandarin, one of his servants rushed out from a dark passage, and slapped his face. Mr. Innes goes to the Hoppo, or chief police magistrate, and demands justice. The Hoppo laughs in his face. Mr. Innes then says, that if he have not justice before eight that evening, he will fire the mandarin's house. The Hoppo smiles again, and hops off over the water to his festal enjoyments. A little after eight, in a wonderful fright, he hops back, seeing the mandarin's house in a blaze. And Mr. Innes gets ample justice for the assault by committing arson. The Company's factory, and

Company, of course, do not know how sufficiently to express their indignation at such unwarrantable conduct; and we owe our gratitude to Mr. Innes for showing us so much of the Chinese character. Upon mature reflection on all the evidence advanced in this volume, we feel convinced that the Chinese will not carry on with us an authorized trade, upon the footing we wish to establish. It is no use saying that the Americans, and other nations, did what we wish to do; they did it as far as the Chinese were concerned, under the auspices of the president and factory of the East India Company. They looked upon all foreigners in the aggregate as one set, and to the factory as responsible for their behaviour. When Lord Napier arrives to supersede the factory, and the celestials find that they are no longer dealing with a body of truckling and subservient merchants, but that they are in actual contact with a powerful, a war-like and, worst of all, intelligent government, great will be the wagging of chins in consternation, and the agitation of peacock's feathers in perplexity. We think that his lordship will be reminded, that he is a long way off home, and that so great a personage will require all the ships that lay in Canton river to convey him thither. The upshot of all this will be, a forced trade—disturbances in China—perhaps a revolution—a settlement on her coast, and, in a century or two, a second edition of India. That these results will benefit the Chinese at large, and advance the cause of humanity, there can be little doubt; yet these future advantages will be obtained at the cost of much present misery, is equally certain. The volume that has called from us these remarks we hesitate not to say, should be very generally perused. To the merchant such perusal is a matter of the most urgent necessity. We have much doubt of the success of the first speculations. As obstinacy generally begets a wish to either overcome or punish it, we cannot help entertaining the immoral hope, that if the authorized trade be refused to us, or rendered worthless by impediments or extortion, that our ships will spread themselves over the coasts, and smuggle all they can. Even upon the "fitness of things," as philosopher Square hath it, we hardly know whether it be morally right that an imbecile despotism should defer the blessings of civilization to so many millions, lest they should learn to think, and find themselves not quite so well off under a government so paternal, as they ought to be; and that we should not be permitted to bring about that reform from without, which cowardice or selfishness will not allow to originate within. However we leave this matter to the casuists; we know that we have the clergy with us in this view, and, if it be allowed to interfere to the spiritual welfare of a nation, against that nation's wishes, surely something might be hazarded for their temporal advantage also. We shall conclude by saying, that this work on China is got up with the temperate good sense of a man inured to business; and it is not only a valuable, but a most opportunely produced volume.—*Metropolitan Magazine for March.*

THE MISCELLANY OF NATURAL HISTORY. THE FELINE SPECIES.

The feline family is an amiable race, which subsists by preying on other animals. The construction, the form, the organs of each individual, are all beautifully adapted to accomplish this interesting end. The skeleton combines the greatest firmness consistent with lightness and agility of movement. The muscles are "exceedingly firm and dense in their fibres; and are particularly strong and numerous where the greatest momentary force (*id est*, a pat that shall settle) is required." The members of the Cat species for the most part pounce on their prey by surprise: their natural pace is therefore stealthy, that they may not alarm their victim; a peculiar padding under each paw renders the footfall unheard, and breaks the shock which they would otherwise receive when alighting from their final spring. Sir Charles Bell, we believe, describes the wise economy which prevails in the formation of the "upper extremity" of beasts of prey, the enormous power of their fore-arm, the adaptation of skeleton and muscles for making a sudden and vigorous leap. To enable them to pass swiftly through the air, and to alight with "due force on their feet" (?) says Mr. Rhind, "the specific gravity of these animals is much greater than their bulk would lead us to suppose." As they generally prey by night, the peculiar organization of their eyes enables them to discern objects in all but total darkness; whilst their long whiskers "are so many feelers, by which they explore their secret way during the gloom of night: and by which they can on the slightest touch distinguish any object they wish to obtain or avoid. These hairs, it must be remarked, possess no sensibility in themselves; but their roots are inserted into a highly sensible texture around the mouth, corresponding in many respects to the human lips. The slightest impression made on the extremities of these hairs is instantly perceived by the animal and they in this manner form most exquisite organs of touch.

In choosing a couple of extracts, we will take them not from Mr. Rhind, but from his authorities; for though the neatness of style may not be equal to his, original description is generally better than second-hand. The following is an account of a lion-hunt, or rather the death of a lioness, from the pen of the Marchioness of Hastings, who is herself the heroine of her tale.

After a remarkable tiger-hunt, this intrepid huntress took the field next morning, in quest of three lions, which were reported to be lurking in a jungle a short distance east of the tents. "The ground we passed over was equally flat with that of yesterday, but it was ploughed. When we came to the edge of the jungle, a place not unlike the skirts of a coppice in England, and which was principally composed of stumpy trees and willow-like shrubs, we halted for a little. The people from the neighbourhood assembled round us in crowds, and in a few minutes all the trees in the jungle appeared to be crowned with men, placed there by Frazer for observation. After waiting nearly an hour we were at last sent for. We found Frazer posted just by the side of the great canal which was cut by the Emperor Firoze across the country, from the Jumna at Firozeabad, to Delhi, for the purpose of supplying this part of the country with water. Frazer had received intelligence of both a lion and a tiger being in the jungle which now chokes up this canal. He desired Barton and myself to go down upon an elephant, and watch the bed of the canal, and to move slowly to the south, while he should enter and advance in a contrary direction. The rest of the party were to beat the jungle above, where it was so very thick that in most places it would have been impossible for an elephant to attempt to force a passage through it. When we had proceeded about a quarter of a mile down the

Nulla, there being but just room at the bottom for an elephant to walk clear of the bushes, we came to the spot where it was a little wider, and where some water had collected. Here we fell in with Frazer on his elephants who had met with no better success than ourselves, though we had all searched every bush as closely as we could with our eyes in passing along. He desired us to wait there a few minutes while he mounted the bank above to look after the rest of the elephants, though none of us were very sanguine of sport here, from the jungle being so thick and so extensive on every side. He had hardly gone away, when the people in the trees called out that they saw the wild beast in the bushes on our left hand; and in a few minutes a lioness crossed the narrow neck of the canal just before us, and clambered up the opposite bank. I immediately fired, but missed her; the men pointed that she had run along the bank to the westward. We turned round, and had the mortification of seeing her again dart across the path, and run into the water through the Nulla for some yards, at which moment our elephant became refractory, kept wheeling about, and was so unsteady as to make it impossible for us to fire. However, we followed her up to the thicket in which she had taken shelter, and put the elephant's head right into it, when we had the satisfaction to hear the lioness growling close to us. Just as we were expecting her charge every minute, and had prepared our muskets ready to point at her, round wheeled the elephant again, and became perfectly unmanageable. During the scuffle betwixt the elephant and its driver, we heard the cry that the lioness was again running down the bank; and again went off. She again crossed the Nulla, and we saw some partridges start up from the thicket into which she had penetrated. Just as we got our elephant to go well in, she ran back again, and croaked under a thicket on a bank on our left hand, near the place where she had been originally started. All this happened in less than a minute. Frazer then called to us to come round the bush, as the lioness being in a line between him and us, we prevented him from firing. Just we got out of his reach, he fired, and as soon as our elephant stopped, I did the same. Both shots took effect, for the poor lioness stirred not from the spot, but lay and growled in rather a more mellow and hollow one than that of a tiger. All our guns were loaded with slugs; and after a few discharges, the poor lioness tried to sally from her covert, and rolled over and over into the bed of the canal below. Her loins were evidently cut to pieces, and her hind parts trailed after her. This was fortunate for us, as her fore parts were meddled with and hurt. She reared herself upon her fore legs, and cast towards us a look that bespoke revenge, and complaint, and dignity, which I thought to be quite affecting. Perhaps, however, it was the old prejudice in favour of lions that made me fancy this, as well as that there was an infinite degree of spirit and dignity in her attitude. Her head, half averted from us, was turned back as if ready to start at us, if the wounds in her loins had not disabled her. As it was now mercy to fire and put an end to her sufferings; I took steady aim, and shot her right through the head. She fell dead at once, and it was found on going up to her, that the ball had completely carried away her lower jaw. Her body was drawn up the bank, when Frazer pronounced her not two years old. We now learnt that the shot which we had heard when down below, was occasioned by the lioness having made a spring at a poor man who stood panic-struck, unable to discharge his piece or to run away. She had thrown him down, and got him completely under her, and his turban into her mouth. The elephants, all dismayed had turned back, when Mr. Wilder, seeing the imminent danger of the moment, fired at the lioness, and grazed her side. She immediately left her hold, ran back into the jungle, and across the canal where we first perceived her."

The next extract attempts to describe what must be in reality one of the most terrific encounters in animal nature—a combat between an alligator and a tiger. It took place in the Sunderbund.

About eleven o'clock in the forenoon, we cast anchor in the Borchara Nuddee, with an extensive forest on both sides; when, at about a hundred yards from us, an alligator came out of the river, to enjoy his noontide sleep in the rays of the sun. After remaining there about half an hour, apparently in a sound sleep, we observed an immense tiger emerging from the jungle, and bending his steps toward the place where the alligator lay. In size, the tiger exceeded the largest we had ever seen; and his broad round face, when turned towards us, striped with white his fierce eyes, with the amazing apparent strength of his limbs, made the stoutest heart on board tremble at the thought of encountering such a dreadful foe. With the most cautious pace imaginable, the tiger approached the alligator; his raised foot remained up for some seconds before he replaced it on the ground; and so he proceeded till he came within the power of his leap; when, exerting all his strength, and bounding from the earth, he descended immediately upon the alligator's back, and seized it by the throat. The monster of the deep, roused from its slumber, opened its jaws, and lashed its terrific tail; and while the conflict lasted, each seemed to exert its utmost strength. The tiger, however, had the advantage; for he had grasped the alligator in a part of the neck, which entirely prevented him from turning his head sufficiently round to seize his antagonist; and though many severe blows were inflicted on the body of the tiger by his saw-like tail, the noble beast of the forest, when the battle was concluded, shook his brawny tail, and seemed unconscious of any pain. Having overcome the alligator, he dragged it a little further on the shore, and sat over it exactly in the attitude of a cat sitting over a captive mouse; he then took the creature in his mouth, and gently walked off with it into the jungles. About ten minutes after, we saw the tiger emerge from the forest; and after gazing at us for a few minutes, and perhaps imagining that we were almost too far from the shore to allow him to add us to the number of his trophies of victory and blood, he slowly pursued his course in a different direction to where he had left his prey, and we saw him no more. In less than an hour afterwards, the alligator, who had been stunned, but not killed, crept out of the jungle, and though evidently much injured, yet, with some difficulty, reached the river. He, however, was too much lacerated to remain long in the water, and soon came again to land; but took the precaution of exposing but a part of his body, and keeping his face toward the shore; he continued but a very short time, and again launched into the deep, repeating his visits to the beach almost every quarter of an hour whilst we remained. The sight was certainly dreadfully magnificent, and one, we believe, which is very seldom witnessed."

POLICE.—MANSION-HOUSE.

YORKSHIRE-MAN SICK OF THE SEA.—A young clumsy red-cheeked Yorkshire-man, named Robert Davis, was brought before the Lord Mayor, whom he eyed with evident astonishment, charged with having fancied Aldgate High-street, in the filthiest spot amongst the butchers' shambles, for a bed on the preceding night.

Inspector M'Lean stated that the defendant appeared in the neighbourhood in a woeful state of intoxication, and that after having tried various parts of the street, he at last fixed upon the dirtiest for taking his night's rest in. Several attempts were made to bring him to himself, but the spirit of rum had taken hold of him, and it was found necessary to carry him to the station-house, where the only account he could give of himself was that he was a traveller.

The LORD MAYOR: How did it happen that you got into so beastly a state of intoxication?—Defendant: Eh! Why I doant know just, but I bin at sea, you see.

The LORD MAYOR: At sea! You don't look like a seaman.—Defendant: Noa, I be a cloth worker from Yorkshire, but I just came from sea. Fayther gied me a fortin to go to Merikey, and I goes off to Portsmouth. Well, I goes into ship, and ship goes off four days ago.

The LORD MAYOR: You haven't been in America since, have you?—Defendant: Eh! Noa. I a'not bin there, and a'nt a going now, for I be going back again to Yorkshire [a laugh].

The LORD MAYOR: What's that for?—Defendant: Eh! Why you see the ship rowled, and rowled, and be hanged if I could eat a bit; so the sailors, when they seed I couldn't eat nothing, offered me a piece of bacon with all the lean cut off, and that made me worse [laughter].

The LORD MAYOR: And did you eat the bacon?—Defendant: Eat it! noa, I tried a bit, for they told me 'twould cure the rowling of the ship, but I am hanged if it didn't make the ship for to pitch more, and it made my inside for to pitch too.

The LORD MAYOR: And so because you lost your appetite you were determined to lose your passage?—Defendant: Eh! my passage! why, if I couldn't eat how could I live all the way to Merikey? Well, I comed up to Lunnon, and I sets up at the Swan with two Necks, and yesterday I took my passage to Nottingham, and by rights I ow't to be there now, and not here you see.

The LORD MAYOR: It is all your fault; why did you get drunk? I suppose it was because you got back your appetite?—Defendant (opening mouth and giving a hearty laugh): Yos, yos; I thout the sea rowled it away, but I'm hanged if it a'nt come back bigger nor ever [great laughter].

The LORD MAYOR: What will your father say to all this. He'll be glad to see me back, I dare say?—Defendant (reflecting probably for the first time): Feythar! Glad! Hanged if I know [laughter].

LORD MAYOR: Have you got a wife?—Defendant: Yos, yos.

The LORD MAYOR: She will probably with open arms?—Defendant: She can arm; why, mon, she's deed and buried.

The Inspector said that the defendant had pocket 18*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* when taken to the station. It appeared also, that upon leaving the ship's mouth, he sold his provisions for the sum of 10*l.* that so thoroughly disgusted was he with the sea immediately upon landing, he got upon a coach and was setting off for London.

The LORD MAYOR: Well, my good fellow, I discharge you, and I advise you to get to York as quickly as possible.

Defendant: Yos, yos; I'll go fast enough, but not afore I tucks in a bit of dinner [laughter].

The defendant, whose performance throughout would have thrown lustre on the brightest days of the immortal Jack Emery, then left the room, amidst laughter in which he most loudly joined.

MISCELLANEA.

THE NATIONAL DEBT.—Of the 700 and odd millions of the national debt, only about 175,000,000 is fluctuating; the remainder consists either of wardships in Chancery or the Exchequer, or belonging to charities, trusteeships, or fixed property of individuals who rarely sell or transfer it. The amount of the Court of Chancery wardships standing in the name of the Accountant-General in 1825 was 39,174,722*l.* In 1823 the total number of persons receiving dividends was 238,473, of whom 277,594 persons were in receipt of various incomes from the funds under 400*l.* per annum, and 10,789 of incomes above that sum. The number of persons receiving from 1000*l.* to 2000*l.* per annum was 490, and of those receiving more than 2000*l.* only 218 persons.

M. Volkhardt, a printer in Augsburg, has been sentenced to sixteen years' imprisonment, for a libel on the Bavarian Government. He is thirty years of age, and has a wife and two children. He was conveyed to the prison at Munich; where his head was shaved, and he was compelled to put on the prison dress: he was so overcome, that he fainted away.

When Burns was first invited to dine at Dunlop-house, a wesleyan dame, who acted as house-keeper, appeared to doubt the propriety of her Mistress entertaining a mere ploughman who made rhymes as if he were a gentleman of old descent. By way of convincing Mrs. M'Guistan, for that was her name, of the bard's right to such a distinction, Mrs. Dunlop gave her *The Cottar's Saturday Night* to read. This was soon done—she returned the volume with a strong shaking of the head, saying, "Nae doubt gentlemen and ladies think mickle o' this, but for me it is neathing but what I saw i' my father's house every day, and I dinna see how he could hae tauld it in any other way." In a note to one of Burns's paraphrases of the Psalms is the following anecdote:—"It is related in our Scottish legends that a wayfarer Irishman took shelter, one stormy night, in a farmer's house, just as the household struck up the 90th Psalm—some say the 119th in family worship. The stranger, ignorant of the devotional turn of his host, imagined the psalm to be a song in honour of his coming—in short, a welcome. He sat and heard it to an end, and then said, 'Merry be your heart, goodman, that's a long song and a good song; and, by way of requital, I shall give you a touch of Brian O'Linn.'"

Francis the First asked one day of Duchatel, the learned Bishop of Orleans, if he was a gentleman? "Sire," was the prelate's reply, "in the ark of Noah there were three brothers—I cannot tell from which of them I am descended."

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